

Gethsemane.

In golden youth, when seems the earth A summer land for singing mirth, When souls are glad and hearts are light,

And not a shadow lurks in sight, We do not know it, but there lies Somewhere, veiled under evening skies, A garden all must some time see— Somewhere lies our Gethsemane!

With joyous steps we go our ways, Love lends a halo to the days, Light sorrows sail like clouds afar, We laugh and say how strong we are. We hurry on—and, hurrying, go Close to the border-land of woe That waits for you and waits for me— Forever waits Gethsemane!

Down shadowy lanes, across strange streams

Bridged over by our broken dreams, Behind the misty capes of years, Close to the great salt fount of tears, The garden lies; strive as you may, You cannot miss it in your way, All paths that have been or shall be Pass somewhere through Gethsemane!

All those who journey soon or late, Must pass within the garden's gate; Must kneel alone in darkness there And battle with some fierce despair, God pity those who cannot say, "Not mine, but Thine;" who only pray, "Let this cup pass;" and cannot see The purpose in Gethsemane

—Selected.

For the Visitor.

Victoria, B. C. J. J. J.

BY WALTER BARRES.

I shall now attempt to tell you my first impressions of the capital of British Columbia. As regards its outward aspects Victoria is a city

"BEAUTIFUL FOR SITUATION."

Instead of being monotonously level, as the photographs of it would lead one to believe, it is quite the reverse. Entering the harbor, one sees on the right an arm of the sea called James Bay overlooking which are the Government buildings; on his left he sees another sheet of water called Rock Bay where are large lumber mills; just in front lies the city proper built on gently rising ground; while in the background he perceives high hills. The broad, clean streets are laid out at right angles, and are kept in good repair. The diminutive one-story houses, so characteristic of the city in the past, are now being rapidly replaced by larger and more attractive dwellings. Many of the public buildings are made of brick or of stone, and both in size and architectural beauty, would be an ornament to a large Eastern city. It is now a city ordinance that, within the fire limits, no wooden building shall be erected, nor shall one be repaired beyond a certain value.

THE CLIMATE

is mild, somewhat cool and moist. The rainy season has just set in, and rubbers, gossamers and umbrellas must be in constant readiness. One redeeming feature, however, is that it rains mostly in the night, interfering with business but little in the daytime. The winter so-called lasts but a few weeks, or perhaps days. While taking a walk this afternoon, I saw bright blossoms in the flower gardens; the English ivy was climbing over the porticos in wild luxuriance, and in some orchards, many apples were not yet gathered. Yes, we have fruit orchards in Victoria, a fact that may surprise you as it did me; for I had imagined that on leaving Nova Scotia, I had said goodbye to fine fruit. The crop of apples, pears and plums had been magnificent. Wherever a tree is planted it seems to grow and bear fruit in profusion. I have seen both apple and pear trees fairly breaking down with the weight of their own luscious fruit. Kind friends have kept us well supplied with this luxury. Last week a Cornwallis friend, a good judge of fruit, helped us eat some Gravensteins, and it was our unanimous decision that they had the genuine N. S. flavor.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Victoria is "booming" to use a frequent Western expression. Real estate is "up," houses are being rapidly built, wages are good, rents are high and even ten vacant houses are difficult to obtain. We considered ourselves fortunate in securing a small one-story cottage with five rooms for \$14 a month. So on the whole business prospects look bright.

Great hopes are entertained that when the Island Railway, from Nanaimo to Victoria (70 miles) is completed, this city will become not only the cooling station for the Province, but also the terminus of the C. P. R. R.

THE COST OF LIVING

is, of course, a most important consideration to those whose purses are not long and who possess only a moderate amount of "filthy lucre." While in general the cost of living is considerably higher than in the East, it must be borne in mind that this is more than offset by the higher wages received for labor. Rents and wearing apparel are very expensive. The staple articles of food, as flour, meat and tea are cheaper and better than in the East; while those things which may be classed as luxuries are costly, e. g. Butter, 50c pr. lb.; eggs, 50c doz.; granulated sugar, 7 lbs. for \$1; milk, 10c quart; and the daily newspapers (not much inferior to the Halifax dailies) \$10 a year. Good house furnishings are manufactured here at moderate prices. It is a noteworthy fact that in spite of the apparent high cost of living, actual poverty is very rare, and a beggar is a curiosity.

THE "BIT."

Strange and amusing is it to the uninitiated in inquiring the value of an article, to have it expressed in "bits." He no longer hears about twenty-five cents, or fifty cents, but always "two bits" or "four bits." The "bit" is the name of a coin that has no actual existence, although its nominal value is twelve and one half cents. If the unwary settler purchases something worth one bit and lays down a quarter dollar, he receives only ten cents in change. When he becomes more westernized he lays down a ten cent piece, which is accepted as full payment. It is a 'give and take' process. Coppers are never seen here and they are more missed than regretted; a five cent piece is regarded as a foreign coin; and the smallest medium of exchange is the silver ten cent piece. A few years ago several thousand dollars worth of five cent pieces was imported into B. C., but the merchants gathered them all together, and sent the supply back home. It would refresh your heart to see the contribution plates on Sunday; for all the collections are silver collections.

THE INHABITANTS

of this fair city may be classed as English speaking, Chinese and Indian. Reserving particular mention of the last two classes for another occasion, I shall hear speak only of the English population, part of which are from the Mother country, and part from Eastern Canada. The Lower Provinces are largely represented; only last week four N. S. vessels lay in the harbor, and as a result I feel quite at home. My acquaintances have been confined almost entirely to the Baptist congregation, and regarding these I can gratefully say that while they boast no titled ancestry, they possess kind hearts which are "more than coronets," and royal faith which is "more than Norman blood." Frequent neighborly acts, done unostentatiously, testify to the continued good will of this kind people. Last Friday evening we had a

SURPRISE PARTY

of the genuine old-fashioned stamp. Now some pastor may feel inclined to shed a tear of sympathy for us, as he remembers his former sad experiences, when

"They carried pie to the parson's house, And scattered the floor with crumbs, And marked the leaves of his choicest books With the prints of their greasy thumbs. "Next day the parson went down on his knees, With his wife, but not to pray; Oh, no! 'twas to scrape the grease and dirt From the carpet and stairs away."

But not of this sort was our party, so spare your sympathy. About 8 o'clock a formidable army of friends invaded our quiet home; but their only weapons were loaded baskets and mysterious parcels. As by the touch of the magicians wand there appeared chairs, tables, carpets, curtains, supplies for the larder, &c. After eating a hearty supper provided by the ladies, the uninvited

yet welcome guests said good night. All was done with such good grace and kindly spirit, that it awakened within us feelings of deepest gratitude. And now, in conclusion, let me tell you about our

BAPTIST CAUSE.

I think we can report quiet yet steady progress. The preaching services are well attended; the Sunday school averages between 50 and 60; and the prayer and covenant meetings are marked by good feeling. Last Sunday the pastor, after having been welcomed with his wife as a member of the Calvary Church, extended the right hand of fellowship to four persons who have joined our ranks by letter and experience. Then a goodly number sat around the Lord's table and partook of the emblems of his broken body and shed blood. One of these new members formerly resided at Port Williams N. S., and was converted about nineteen years ago in the revival at Hall's Harbor under the ministry of the late Rev. Jas. Parker. At our last regular business meeting, a very hearty and unanimous expression of thanks was voted to the brethren in the Maritime Provinces who have so generously contributed money towards the erection of a house of worship. Building operations will not be pushed forward, however, until we can see our way clear financially. Former sad experiences in the history of this church have taught us that debt means both danger and disgrace. Upon mature consideration the building lot now owned by the church has been declared to be unsuitable for the erection of a house of worship, as it is rather remote from the principal streets, and is too elevated to be easily approached. It is, however, very saleable property, and will be put in the market immediately and the proceeds deposited on interest. This is just the reverse of a retrograde movement, for it is wiser and quicker in the end to wait and secure a central, pleasant location, than to hasten and build in a place where people cannot find us. We now worship in Temperance Hall, a convenient building centrally located, and \$15 a month pays the rent including heating and lighting. With this reasonable charge we are enabled to lay aside a little each week toward our new church. The envelope system of contributions has been adopted and works satisfactorily, all expenses being met promptly, and generous donations made for benevolent objects. The Treasurer is required every morning of the second Lord's Day of each month to make a full statement of the income and disbursements for the preceding month, that every one may know the financial standing of the church. I shall endeavor to be briefer in my next.

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 6th, 1884.

Extract from Dr. Henson's Lecture on "Gunnery."

We quote from the report in the Baptist:

The word "gunnery" of course was used figuratively. Every man, the lecturer said, was a gun, or a son of a gun. He considered it in three aspects—the gun metal, the ammunition, and the aim. The metal was the stuff a man was made of—his physical, intellectual, and moral character. In this respect there were no doubt differences. There were natures that spontaneously clothed themselves with beauty and strength. On the other hand there were creatures that had no fibre in the muscle, no vertebrae in the back. While that was true, it was also true that very much depended upon preparation. Even physically, great things might be accomplished by training. In this connection he advised young men not to be in too much haste to finish their education.

The trouble with Americans is that they cannot take time for anything. They have no time to eat, so they bolt their food like shovelling coal down cellar. They are in such a hurry to get out into life that their preparation is neglected. They had some exceptions, however, among whom J. A. Broadus, known to the audience, was noticeable. Young men

should be content to remain a long while at college, taking example of Moses, who took a course of eighty years that he might gain preparation for forty years' work. All things that were strong were slow in maturing.

In the next place guns were meant to be discharged, and they must first be charged. This involved the question of the projectile power—the gunpowder. There must be something in the human constitution corresponding to powder in the gun. He believed in heartiness—believed in a man "letting himself out." There was in the pulpit a kind of sensationalism which was objectionable—but there was another kind which was greatly to be coveted. Every man that had made his mark in this world has been sensational. Mere "powder," however, was not sufficient, there must be something to project—and that something was thought. He did not think it mattered much where one got his thought, provided it was real, nutritious thought. Great producers of thought were always great consumers. The richest mind and the rottenest theology in America was that of Henry Ward Beecher, and he was an omnivorous reader. The richest mind and the soundest theology on the other side of the water was that of Spurgeon, and he was also an insatiable reader. He had eaten all the old Puritans, and they agreed with him. Let a man get his materials where he pleased, but let him recast them in the crucible of his own thought. There was a great deal of thin thought in the world, especially in public utterances. What the world wanted was solid thought. The last thing that was necessary in gunnery was "aim." There was a great deal of waste in war. It had been calculated that in war it took 4,000 bullets to kill a man. That was a great comfort to him when he was drafted, the only trouble was that he didn't know whether it would be the first bullet or the last. So there was great waste in the world for want of aim. Many brilliant young men, for want of an aim, disappointed their friends. It was a definite aim always kept in view, the convergence of all lines to one point, that made a man invincible. And if that purpose were the glory of God a man should not miss his mark, and there would come to him at last the words, "Well done," and the crown of glory.

The "Dropping" of Members.

A practice that is rapidly gaining ground among the churches is that known as "dropping" members. What is called Baptist usage varies somewhat in different localities, and it is not always easy to define it, but we think we are within bounds in saying that this "dropping" of members is a practice of recent origin. The only methods by which membership in a Baptist church could be severed were formerly death, dismission and exclusion. All members charged with any immorality, or unfaithfulness to their covenant obligations, were subjected to discipline, if found guilty, the hand of fellowship was withdrawn from them. This method bears the test of both Scripture precept and of common sense.

But the class offenses comprehended under the general term "disregard of covenant obligations" seems to be more common nowadays than in former years. Members who change their place of residence neglect to apply for letters of dismission in order to join a neighboring church, do not communicate with the pastor or other officers of the church to which they nominally belong, and in a few months are lost sight of. This goes on for years, until suddenly the church has a spasm of virtue and decides to revise its roll. A large number of the members can not be found, and by a vote of the church their names are "dropped" from the roll. This is done in preference to withdrawing the hand of fellowship, because there is no charge against their character, and their only offense is that they suffered themselves to be lost sight of. This is chosen as a less disgraceful method of severing their connection with the church than exclusion. Some churches have a standing rule

that if a member absent himself for a certain time—say one year—without contributing to the support of the church or asking for a letter of dismission, his name shall be dropped without further proceedings.

The growth of this practice is much to be deplored. In the first place, no church has a right to permit its members to become lost sight of. If they move away, they should be followed by letter, and urged to unite with the nearest sister church. If they refuse to do this, they should be disciplined. But refusals would be very few. When one-third of the members on the roll of a church can not be accounted for, the fact indicates that the discipline of the church has been disgracefully lax, and the fault of this state of things lies quite as much with the church as with the absentees. In the second place, the practice of "dropping" a member instead of withdrawing the hand of fellowship from him, lends encouragement to the theory that to absent oneself from the church and become lost sight of is a very slight offense. It is, on the contrary, a very serious offense, being nothing less than the violation of the solemn obligations that all members of a Christian church take upon themselves, not to neglect the assembling of themselves together, and to exercise a fraternal care over their brethren. The violation of such an obligation is a sufficient cause in itself why the hand of fellowship should be withdrawn, and if such withdrawal carries with it any stigma of disgrace, who shall say that it is unmerited disgrace?

The best way of dealing with all cases of church discipline is to regard the withdrawal of the hand of fellowship as the proper method of severing the church relation. With the vote to withdraw the hand of fellowship should always be recorded on the church books the reason for such action: for example: "The hand of fellowship is this day withdrawn from A. B. for gross immorality," or "The hand of fellowship is this day withdrawn from C. D. because he has for two years absented himself from the church and been unfaithful to his obligations as a member." If the cause for the withdrawal of the hand of fellowship is stated in each case no more disgrace will attach to the act than belongs to the offense for which it is performed.

The practice of "dropping," therefore, rests on no sufficient reason. There is another and better method of severing church relations already provided for in our Baptist polity, and this is at best superfluous. We believe it also to be mischievous.—*Examiner.*

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THE CENTURY

In 1885.

A GREAT ENTERPRISE.

PAPERS ON THE CIVIL WAR.

The important feature of THE CENTURY MAGAZINE for the coming year—indeed, perhaps the most important ever undertaken by the magazine—will be a series of separate papers on the great battles of the War for the Union, written by general officers high in command upon both the federal and the Confederate sides.—Gen. Grant and Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Lee, written by General Lee, Gen. Johnston, written by General Johnston, Gen. Beauregard, written by General Beauregard, Gen. Longstreet, written by General Longstreet, Gen. Rosecrans, written by General Rosecrans, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman.

The Battle of Bull Run.

written by the Confederate general, G. T. Beauregard. Brief sketches, entitled "Recollections of a Private," will be a series of separate papers on the great battles of the War for the Union, written by general officers high in command upon both the federal and the Confederate sides.—Gen. Grant and Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Lee, written by General Lee, Gen. Johnston, written by General Johnston, Gen. Beauregard, written by General Beauregard, Gen. Longstreet, written by General Longstreet, Gen. Rosecrans, written by General Rosecrans, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman, Gen. Sherman, written by General Sherman.

A strict regard for accuracy will guide the preparation of the illustrations, for which THE CENTURY has at its disposal a very large quantity of photographs, drawings, portraits, maps, plans, etc., hitherto unused. The aim is to present in this series, not only reports by commanding officers, but also accounts of their plans and operations,—interesting personal experiences which will record leading events of the war, and possess, at the same time, a historical value not easily to be calculated.

FICTION.

In this line THE CENTURY will maintain its prestige, and furnish the best stories by American writers that can be procured. In November begins

A New Novel by W. D. Howell,

Author of "Venetian Days," "A Modern Instance," etc. This story deals with the rise of an American business man, and is by Henry James, a novelette by Grace Denio Litchfield, and short stories by "Uncle Remus," Frank R. Stockton, H. H. Boyesen, T. A. Janvier, H. H. Johnson, and other equally well-known writers will appear at various times.

MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES.

Under this heading may be included a series of papers on the Cities of Italy by W. D. Howells, the illustrations being reproductions of etchings and drawings by Joseph Pennell, a series on

The New North-West,

being an interesting group of papers by E. V. Smalley, Lieut. Schwatka, Prince Grant (of Kingston, Ontario), and others, descriptive of little-known regions; papers on French and American art,—sculpture and painting, with some exquisite illustrations; papers on

Astronomy, Architecture, and History,

the first being by Professor Langley and others. Under Architecture are included more of Mrs. Van Rensselaer's articles on Churches, City and Country Houses, etc. Colonel George E. Warring, Jr., will describe

Progress in Sanitary Drainage;

E. C. Stedman, Edmund Goose, and others will furnish literary essays; George W. Cable will contribute in various ways: several papers on sport and adventure will soon be published, and

John Burroughs

will write from time to time on outdoor subjects. Readers of THE CENTURY may feel sure of keeping abreast of the times on leading subjects that may properly come within the province of a weekly magazine. Its circulation is now about 150,000 monthly. The November number, exceeding that figure. Subscriptions should close from this number, beginning the 1st of November. The price is \$4.00 a year, 55 cents a number. All book-sellers and news-dealers sell it at a discount, or remittance may be made to the publishers.

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Attractions for 1884-5

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MARY MAPES DODGE.

has grown familiar to hundreds of thousands of young readers; and their interest and intelligent enjoyment have constantly inspired the editor and publishers to fresh effort. Today, its strength is in its wholesome growth, its sympathy with young life, its hearty recognition of the movement of events, and its steadily increasing literary and pictorial resources. The following are some of the good things already secured for future members of ST. NICHOLAS.

"His One Fault," a serial story for boys, by the popular author, J. E. Trowbridge.

"Personally Conducted," illustrated papers on famous places in Europe. By Frank T. Stockton.

"Historic Girls," a companion series to "Historic Boys." By E. S. Brooks.

"Ready for Business," suggestions to boys about the conduct of a business.—based on personal interviews with prominent representatives of various trades and professions. By G. J. Mason.

"Driven back to Eden," a serial. By E. P. Roe.

"Talks for Young Folks," a series of popular papers, by H. H. (Helen Jackson).

"Among the Law-makers," recollections of a boy-page in the U. S. Senate,—containing much political information, both instructive and amusing. By Edmund Alton.

"Davy and the Goblin," a very funny serial story by a new writer, Chas. Carryl.

Short Stories by Louisa M. Alcott.

"The Progress of Invention,"—from Palanquin to Palace-car. —from Cross-bow to 100-ton Gun." etc. Descriptive papers by H. C. Bolton.

"Art Work for Young Folks," papers on decorative handicraft, by Chas. G. Leland.

"Sheep or Silver?" a story of Texan life. By the late Rev. William M. Baker.

"A Garden of Girls," being six short stories for girls, by Six Ladies.—based on personal interviews with prominent representatives of various trades and professions. By H. H. Boyesen.

"Cartoons for Boys and Girls," funny pictures, by St. Nicholas Artists.

"From Bach to Wagner"; brief, pointed biographies of great musicians by Agatha Tully.

Special Papers, by chosen writers, including Mary Halleck Foote, Joaquin Miller, Alice Wellington Rollins, G. B. Bartlett, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Rev. Washington Gladden, Julia Schaver, Anna Lea Merritt, W. O. Stoddard, D. Der, Ernest Ingersoll, Clara E. Clement, Lieutenant Schwatka.

The illustrations will be the work of the very best artists and engravers,—and there will be plenty of them. In the November and December numbers are beautiful

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